REMARKS:

In the Office Action, Claims 25-29, 32-42, and 46-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) or 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). All of those claims have been cancelled. However, because the primary reference for all of the rejections qualifies as prior art under § 102 (e), Applicants reserve the right to antedate that reference. Also, because the primary reference for all of the § 103 rejections qualifies as prior art under § 102 (e) and is assigned to the assignee of the present application, Applicants reserve the right pursue the claims presently rejected under § 103 in a continuation application and rely on § 103 (c) as a basis for patentability.

Claims 30 and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 30 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form as new Claims 49 and 58 and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 49 and 58 are in condition for allowance. New claims 50-57 and 59-66 have been added that depend from Claims 49 and 58, respectively. Because new claims 50-57 and 59-66 depend from claims that are in condition for allowance, Applicants submit that these new claims are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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